UNITED
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Trusteeship Council

Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.1289
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixtieth session

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPATCH OF A VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE A PLEBISCITE IN PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1288

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1288, the Trusteeship Council would:

(a) Decide to send to Palau a visiting mission to begin on or about 2 November 1993 and to end as soon as practicable after the declaration of the results of the plebiscite (para. 1);

(b) Further decide that the Visiting Mission to Palau should be composed of six members, the members to be representatives of China, France, the Marshall Islands, the Russian Federation, Samoa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (para. 2);

(c) Direct the Visiting Mission to observe the plebiscite, specifically the polling arrangements, the casting of votes, the closure of voting, the counting of ballots and the declaration of results (para. 3);

(d) Request the Visiting Mission to submit to the Trusteeship Council as soon as practicable a report on its observation of the plebiscite, containing such conclusions and recommendations as it may wish to make (para. 4);

(e) Request the Secretary-General to provide the necessary staff and facilities to assist the Visiting Mission in the performance of its functions (para. 5).

2. It is understood on the basis of information made available to the Secretariat that the Mission would be composed of four members of the Trusteeship Council and two representatives of countries of the Pacific region. It is further assumed that it would be serviced by four staff members. It may be recalled that in his statement set out in document T/L.1287, the Secretary-General estimated that the requirements of a mission to Palau would amount to $94,000 at full cost. This was based on the assumption that all participants would travel from New York. Since additional costs have arisen in respect of the travel of two members from their respective capitals, the revised estimates assume that the requirements of the Mission at full cost would amount to $101,500 broken down as follows:

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Travel of representatives	60 500
Travel of staff	32 000
Mission operating expenses	9 000
Total	101 500

All the other participants will travel from New York.

3. The revised appropriations approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session for the Trusteeship Council's activities in 1992-1993 amount to $113,900. Related commitments during the current biennium amount to $71,500, hence a balance of $42,400 is available for the Council's activities for the remainder of the biennium.

4. Should the Council decide to dispatch a visiting mission to Palau, it is anticipated that the available balance of the appropriations of $42,400 would not be adequate to meet the additional requirements for the mission. The Secretary-General believes, however, that the additional requirements of up to $59,100 could be absorbed within other resources available under section 37.